

Claim 15 recites "a pharmaceutically acceptable additive, disposed within a carrier that is segregated from, but in contact with, the deposit." This aspect of the invention is illustrated at page 10 of the specification, which illustrates the additive in a pouch incorporated in the cover of the dosage form, incorporated in the cover itself, or adhered in an adhesive layer to the cover. Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Chen discloses or suggests this feature. Thus, Chen cannot anticipate claim 15, or its dependent claim 16.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

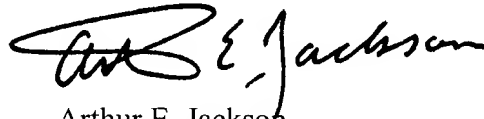
Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), based on an assertion of obviousness in view of Chen, WO 99/63972. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Nothing in Chen suggests the features mentioned in the preceding section. Accordingly, the rejection, it is respectfully submitted, should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In light of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.²

Respectfully submitted,



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